

REMARKS

All the claims under consideration remain rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haefner et al (USPN 5,690,683) in view of either of two patents to Zhu et al (USPNs 6,044,296 or 5,843,136), all previously of record. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

Applicants remain convinced that one skilled in the art would not have been led to arrive at a system to enable selective sensing between all combinations of any two electrodes based on what was known from the cited references. It remains that no one taught or suggested a system with as much versatility as that of the present invention although aspects were shown in the art. It appears only through hindsight that one could piece together such a system including what was known previously. Even though many of the elements were in existence prior to applicants' invention, no one thought of or suggested anything resembling the present concept. Previous focus was always on augmenting systems directed to specific combinations of electrodes which became dedicated sensing combinations in the previous systems.

Thus, although looking backward from the present might make it seem as though the present invention did not involve a large inventive step, the discovery has produced an important and practical advance which did not previously occur to those skilled in the art.

In view of the above and previous amendments and remarks,
the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw
the present rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

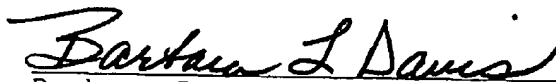
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116 in response to the Final Official Action mailed June 17, 2005, in application Serial No. 09/206,329, filed on December 8, 1998, of Geng Zhang et al, entitled "AUTOCAPTURE PACING/SENSING CONFIGURATION", and a transmittal letter are being sent by facsimile transmission to: The Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 22, 2005.



Barbara L. Davis

On behalf of C. G. Mersereau

Date of Signature: August 22, 2005